REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-15 and 17-20, and leaves claims 16 and 21 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-21.

Claim for Foreign Priority

Applicants filed a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, claiming the right for priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-341667. The claim for foreign priority and the certified copy of the priority document were filed on August 20, 2003. However, the Examiner asserts that certified copy of the priority document has not been received.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the certified copy of the document was received by the Office. The Examiner's attention is directed to the document scanned into PAIR under "Certified Copy of Foreign Priority Application", having a mailroom date of August 20, 2003, where pages 2-55 constitute the certified copy of the priority document. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgement of the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. A copy of the submission of priority is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly clam the subject matter of the invention. With regard to claims 3, 4 and 11, this rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that claims 3, 4 and 11, as now more clearly recited, are in compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112.

With regard to the remaining claims 6 and 7, this rejection is traversed because contrary to the Examiner's assertions, "said address translation rule" has sufficient antecedent basis. For example, claims 3 and 4, from which claims 6 and 7

depend, respectively recite "an address translation rule". Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-12, 14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,934,763 to Kubota et al. ("Kubota"). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in claims 1-12, 14 and 17, are not taught or suggested by Kubota, whether taken individually or in combination any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Specifically, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to an address translator and a method for translating an address as recited, for example, in independent claims 1, 2, 10, and 11.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 2, 10, and 11, provides an address translator. The address translator includes an interface connected to a plurality of communication networks including at least a first communication network connected to a first host, and a second communication network connected to a second host. The address translator also includes a table for translating addresses used in the first communication network and addresses used in the second communication network. According to the present invention, the table includes a plurality of translation rules for each address used in the first communication network and each address used in the second communication network. Also according to the present invention, the table contains a discriminator

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for each address to determine whether the address is a native address actually given to the first host or the second host or a virtual address for address translation temporarily given to the first host or the second host, the discriminator being given dynamically to each translation rule. The prior art does not disclose all of these features.

The above described features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record, particularly Kubota, whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

Kubota teaches a communication data relay system and method of controlling connectability between domains. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Kubota of the address translator or the method for translating an address as recited in claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 of the present invention.

Kubota discloses a relay system that includes interface units for accessing networks, a domain definition module, a connection definition module, and a routing module. The relay system also includes an address translation module for translating, when forwarding a communication data from one domain to another domain, a source address belonging to the source domain contained in the packet into a proxy host address belonging to the routing destination domain. Also included in the relay system is an address reverse translation module for translating, when receiving a communication data which has the proxy host address in destination address field, the destination address belonging to the source domain contained in the packet into the address belonging to the routing destination. Furthermore, the relay system includes a control unit for controlling a connectability for routing

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between the two or more domains in accordance with definitions of the connection

definition module.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 1, and as similarly

recited in claims 2, 10 and 11, where the table contains a discriminator for each

address to determine whether the address is a native address actually given to the

first host or the second host or a virtual address for address translation temporarily

given to the first host or the second host, the discriminator being given dynamically

to each translation rule. For example, as shown in Fig. 2B, the present invention

teaches where an area 152 is provided to store a discriminator of temporary

addresses in addition to the area 151 to store the IP address translation rule.

Kubota does not disclose this feature.

To support the assertion that Kubota teaches a discriminator, the Examiner

cites: Fig. 3; column 8, lines 30-55; column 9, lines 15-62; and column 11, lines 1-

20. However, neither the cited text, nor any other portion of the Kubota, teaches or

suggests the present invention. For example, Fig. 3 shows an inter domain

connection judging module 4a. This module 4a judges a connectability of an

arbitrary couple of domains among the plurality of domains, and determines an

address translation algorithm used when establishing the connection. This module

4a is quite different from the present invention, where the discriminator determines

whether the address is a native address actually given to the first host or the second

host, or a virtual address for address translation temporarily given to the first host or

the second host, and where the discriminator is given dynamically to each

translation rule.

Furthermore, Kubota fails to teach or suggest "wherein said table contains a

discriminator for each address to determine whether said address is a native

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address actually given to said first host or said second host or a virtual address for

address translation temporarily given to said first host or said second host, the

discriminator being given dynamically to each translation rule" as recited in claim 1,

and as similarly recited in claims 2, 10 and 11.

Therefore, Kubota does not teach or suggest the features of the present

invention, as recited in claims 1-12, 14 and 17. Accordingly, reconsideration and

withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1-12, 14 and 17 as being

anticipated by Kubota are respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit

that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the

references used in the rejection of claims 1-12, 14 and 17.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

over Kubota in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,068,600 to Cain. Claim 13 is dependent on

claim 11. Therefore, claim 13 is allowable for at least the same reasons previously

discussed regarding claim 11.

Claims 15, 16, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Kubota in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,629,149 to Fraser et al.

("Fraser"). Claims 15, 16, 18 and 19 are dependent on claim 11. Therefore, claims

15, 16, 18 and 19 are allowable for at least the same reasons previously discussed

regarding claim 11.

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Kubota in view of Cain, and further in view of Fraser. Claims 20

and 21 are dependent on claim 11. Therefore, this rejection is traversed for at least

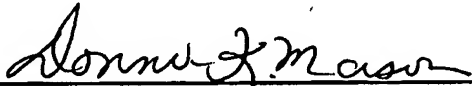the same reasons as previously discussed regarding claim 11.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references used in the rejection of claims 1-21.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-21 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing Attorney Docket No. 501.42998X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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